

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
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R 290720Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG AORG UNIDROIT MX

SUBJECT: 29TH SESSION OF UNIDROIT FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT FOR COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TAKEN UP AT 29TH SESSION OF UNIDROIT FINANCE COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 6, 1977, ONLY ITEM THAT APPEARS TO RAISE A PROBLEM OF SOME DIMENSION IS CLAIM BY MEXICO TO BE MOVED FROM CATEGORY V IN THE TABLE DETERMINING SIZE OF ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ORGANIZATION TO LOWEST CATEGORY, WHICH IS VIII.

2. FINANCE COMMITTEE DOC. 4, WHICH SETS FORTH THE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS REQUEST, INDICATES IT IS BASED PRINCIPALLY UPON ANNUAL PER CAPITA INCOME IN MEXICO, WHICH IS SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN THAT OF OTHER MEMBERS OF UNIDROIT IN CATEGORY V. WHILE PER CAPITA INCOME IS AN
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IMPORTANT FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING CATEGORIES OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, OBVIOUSLY IT CAN NOT BE MADE THE DETERMINING FACTOR. IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE FACTORS UPON WHICH ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN FAMILY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE CALCULATED. IN THE CASE OF INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS UNIDROIT RELATIVE SMALLNESS OF

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN RELATION TO OVERALL RESOURCES OF

MEMBERS IS ANOTHER FACTOR OF IMPORTANCE.

3. IT CAN NOT BE DENIED THAT CHART ATTACHED TO DOC. 4 REVEALS SOME RATHER STRIKING DISPARITIES WITH RESPECT TO PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY SOME MEMBERS OF UNIDROIT TO THE VARIOUS UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNIDROIT. PRESENCE OF JAPAN IN UNIDROIT CATEGORY II IS A NOTABLE EXAMPLE, AS IS PRESENCE OF IRAN IN CATEGORY VIII.

4. DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, CONSIDERS THAT IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO TAKE ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT RESULT IN UNDERMINING BASIS FOR EXISTING STRUCTURE OF UNIDROIT CATEGORIES. BEST COURSE APPEARS TO BE TO TREAT MEXICAN REQUEST ON ITS OWN MERITS AND WITHOUT DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER ANOMOLIES. ON THIS BASIS AND GIVING CONSIDERATION TO LOW LEVEL OF MEXICAN AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME, CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO PUTTING MEXICO IN CATEGORY VII. EMBASSY MIGHT CAUTIOUSLY EXPLORE WHETHER THIS CHANGE WOULD BE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE WITHOUT TOUCHING OFF SERIES OF REQUESTS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO LOWER CATEGORIES. IF MEXICO INTENDS TO INSIST UPON ASSIGNMENT TO CATEGORY VIII, THEN EMBASSY SHOULD OPPOSE THIS RECLASSIFICATION. IF RECLASSIFICATION APPEARS LIKELY TO RESULT IN STRING OF OTHER REQUESTS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSIGNMENT TO LOWER CATEGORIES, EMBASSY SHOULD OPPOSE ANY DECISION BEING MADE BY FINANCE COMMITTEE AT THIS STAGE. CHRISTOPHER

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Sent Date: 29-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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